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4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20015 656-4068

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PROGRAM The Daily Drum STATION WHUR Radio

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SUBJECT The CIA Has a New Charter

ADRIENNE FELTON: The Central Intelligence Agency has a new charter, but Congress and the White House are sharply divided on how much authority this new charter should give the agency. An opponent of unlimited power for the CIA, Senator Walter Huddleston, said the Carter Administration wants to punish anybody who discloses names of agents, despite the First Amendment, which protects freedom of speech.

Another person voicing alarm at what appears to be an attempt to place the CIA above the law is Linda Lutz, spokesperson for the Campaign for Political Rights.

LINDA LUTZ: A week ago, 36 national organizations contacted President Carter and sent copies of a letter to various congressional leaders. In that letter they wrote to express their strong opposition to any effort, congressionally or by the President, that would attempt to undermine the controls, however limited, that are now placed on the CIA's ability to conduct covert actions. We're also concerned about attempted weakening congressional oversight of the CIA.

Among these groups were organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union, the Association of Arab American University Graduates, a number of churches, the Indian Law Resource Center, Friends of the Filipino People, the United States Student Association, and a number of peace-oriented groups, as well.

FELTON: Congress and the White House are also divided on checks on CIA-initiated covert operations, or so-called black bag jobs. President Carter, in a letter to Huddleston, said he supports the new charter despite the serious reservations many